


GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY

THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES PRESENTS



# A LORRAINE HANSBERRY'S RAISIN IN THE SUN

Directed by  
Dr. Patrick Santoro

Show Dates

Nov. 6 & 8 at 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 9 at 2 p.m.

Tickets: \$15

Students: \$10 with I.D.

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

50 Years Since the Civil Rights Act

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# A RAISIN IN THE SUN

By Lorraine Hansberry

\* \* \*

“What happens to a dream deferred?

Does it dry up  
like a raisin in the sun?  
Or fester like a sore—  
And then run?  
Does it stink like rotten meat?  
Or crust and sugar over—  
like a syrupy sweet?

Maybe it just sags  
like a heavy load.

*Or does it explode?”*

— Langston Hughes

\* \* \*

“I am a writer. I suppose I think that the highest gift that man has is art, and I am audacious enough to think of myself as an artist—that there is both joy and beauty and illumination and communion between people to be achieved through the dissection of personality. That’s what I want to do. I want to reach a little closer to the world, which is to say to people, and see if we can share some illuminations together about each other.”

— Lorraine Hansberry

## Director’s Note

Why another production of *A Raisin in the Sun*? Because the story still matters.

While racial discrimination has shifted since *Raisin*’s 1959 Broadway debut, it has not disappeared. 2014 is a historic year, marking the fiftieth anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the arrival of GSU’s first freshman class, and the launch of our new Theatre and Performance Studies major. Moreover, *Raisin* is set in our very own backyard—Chicago’s South Side. Mounting *Raisin* at a time of such historical significance, and in close geographical proximity, feels right.

*Raisin* is one of the most groundbreaking plays of the twentieth century; it is a literary masterpiece, a significant and courageous work of activism. Hansberry has crafted a timeless piece which feels as fresh today as it must have decades ago: the Younger family’s struggles and their search for the American Dream still resounds; the characters are complex and relatable, their dialogue full of cadences and desires not unlike our own; its sense of hope in the face of struggle alive and well. *Raisin* bridges the generation gaps, reminding us, in this present moment, of our country’s history as we work toward an equitable future.

Everyone should see *Raisin* at least once in their lifetime. Whether today is your introduction to the play that *The New York Times* declared “changed American theatre forever,” or you are already familiar with its celebration of faith, courage, and the human spirit, the cast, crew, and I welcome you. We hope that Hansberry’s intensely evocative world leaves you thinking and feeling long after you leave the theatre.

- Dr. Patrick Santoro

**Cast**  
(In Order of Appearance)

Ruth Younger / *Janiece K. Russell*  
Travis Younger / *Yehoshua “Yoshi” McClerklin*  
- and *Triston Dior Price* (understudy)  
Walter Lee Younger / *Dennis C. Dent, Jr.*  
Beneatha Younger / *Cherish Brown*  
Lena “Mama” Younger / *Cheryl Frazier*  
Joseph Asagai / *Cordaro Johnson*  
George Murchison / *Jordan Walters*  
Karl Lindner / *Markas Sergalis*  
Bobo / *Michael DePriest Reed*

*A Raisin in the Sun* runs approximately 2 hours and 45 minutes,  
and is performed with a 15 minute intermission.

The action takes place in the Younger’s apartment  
on Chicago’s South Side, in the early 1950s.

*Act 1*

Scene 1: Early morning  
Scene 2: Saturday, the following morning  
Scene 3: Later that same day

15-Minute Intermission

*Act 2*

Scene 1: Friday night, a few weeks later  
Scene 2: Saturday, one week later  
Scene 3: An hour later

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

Direction  
*Dr. Patrick Santoro*

Stage Management  
*Sherry Nolan*

Assistant Stage Management  
*Marshelle Renee Sanders*

Scenic & Lighting Design  
*Shelley Strasser Holland*

Production Management & Technical Direction  
*Ann N. Davis*

Assistant Technical Direction  
*Dennis Galbreath*

Set Construction  
*Melissa Geel, Valerian Bajak, Jessie Howe, Brittney O'Keefe, Aaron Wigsmoen,  
David Van Wieren, Walter Pohrte, Angelo Nicastrò, David Broughton, Frank Paul,  
Matt Bottger, and Mark Bottger*

Properties Design  
*Stacey Coleman*

Costume Design  
*Brenda Winstead*

Wig Design  
*Kevin Barthel*

Run Crew  
*April Starr Grammer and Lois Nemeth*

Light Board Operator  
*Holly Britton*

Pre-Show and Intermission Media Design  
*Aaron J. Davis*

Producers  
*The College of Arts and Sciences  
The Division of Communication, Visual and Performing Arts  
The Center for Performing Arts  
Dr. Lori Montalbano*

# ENGAGE, ENLIGHTEN, EXPLORE

## THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES

Theatre and Performance Studies at GSU considers performing the stories of others, as well as of the self, imperative for initiating and sustaining a dialogue of shared human experience across identities, diversities, and desires. TAPS provides students with an understanding of the role of storytelling on stage and in everyday life, awareness of cultural diversity and civic engagement, as well as heightened communication, leadership, and critical thinking skills. The program seeks to create well-rounded students, cultivating creative, critical, collaborative, and compassionate voices that move toward fulfilling careers and meaningful lives.



A...MyName Is Alice, Fall 2013



Still Life, Spring 2014



Transformations, Spring 2013

"The Performance and Social Change class is not just a class to learn more about performing, even though you can't help but to do that. It is a course that inspires you to see life, people, and yourself in a different way. If you are like me, you will want to see how you can make a difference in the way people think and treat each other."

— Deirdre Webb, Theatre and Performance Studies major

Theatre and Performance Studies at GSU now has a Facebook presence. Stay informed of upcoming auditions and productions, course offerings, and campus and community happenings by liking us at: [facebook.com/TAPSGSU](https://www.facebook.com/TAPSGSU) For more details, email [psantoro@govst.edu](mailto:psantoro@govst.edu) or call 708.235.2842.

### Spring 2015 Theatre and Performance Studies Courses

#### TAPS 1100: Theatre Appreciation

Section 1: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9-9:50 a.m.

Section 2: Tuesday and Thursday 12:30-1:45 p.m.

#### TAPS 2000/4000: Modern Dance

Monday and Wednesday 6-7:15 p.m.

#### TAPS 2200: Voice and Movement for Actors

Tuesday and Thursday 2-3:15 p.m.

#### TAPS 2650: Contemporary History of Theatre and Performance

Tuesday and Thursday 4:30-5:45 p.m.

#### TAPS 3210: Advanced Acting

Monday 4:30-7:20 p.m.

#### TAPS 3250: Performing Culture and Identity

Tuesday and Thursday 6-7:15 p.m.

### Upcoming TAPS Audition

**Kimberly Akimbo** by David Lindsay-Abaire - Directed by Dr. Patrick Santoro

Performing Friday, April 24 and Saturday, April 25 at 8 p.m.

Preview performance at the Gender Matters conference on Saturday, April 18

Set in the wilds of suburban New Jersey, *Kimberly Akimbo* is a hilarious and heartrending play about a teenager with a rare condition causing her body to age faster than it should. When she and her family flee Secaucus under dubious circumstances, Kimberly is forced to reevaluate her life while contending with a hypochondriac mother, a rarely sober father, a scam-artist aunt, her own mortality and, most terrifying of all, the possibility of first love.

To learn more or schedule an audition for Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015

visit: <http://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/exrnb>

## Profiles

**Holly Britton** (Light Board Operator) is currently a GSU student completing her bachelor's degree in Communication: Filmmaking and Multimedia. Previous theatre experience includes the role of Cheryl in GSU's production of Emily Mann's *Still Life*, Kate in *The Marriage Counselor*, Raquel in *Almost Treasure Island*, and Mrs. Barrymore in *Hound of the Baskervilles*. She is thankful for the opportunity to assist in a new area of theatre this time.

**Cherish Brown** (Beneatha) has performed in the gospel stage plays *Through the Fire and Simply Livin'*. She also recently performed in Anne Sexton's *Transformations* at GSU. Along with her stage performances, she has served as an acting/modeling coach and dance instructor for youth programs throughout Chicagoland. Cherish has a Bachelor of Arts in Communication from GSU and is currently pursuing a master's degree in Communication and Training.

**Stacey Coleman** (Properties Design) is excited to be working with GSU's Theatre and Performance Studies for the first time. For the last 5 years, Stacey enjoyed writing, producing plays, and building props for elementary school children. Some of Stacey's favorite productions include *The Lion King* and *Wicked*. Stacey has also found time to be a Praise and Worship leader at Believers Church in Matteson, IL for the last 10 years. When she's not in her garden, Ms. Coleman loves spending time with her family: husband Saul and children Rachel and Ronald.

**Aaron J. Davis** (Pre-Show and Intermission Media Design) was raised in Buffalo, NY. He started working on Digital Film and Media when he was 21, and has completed over 200 music videos and 8 short films as an independent filmmaker.

**Ann N. Davis** (Production Management and Technical Direction) has worked in Chicago as a production manager, technical director, designer, and scenic painter at many theatres and for films shot in the area. Painting and mural work is one of her specialties. She has had the special opportunity to be able to teach at UIC and work with children and community groups in Chicago and Indiana. She has also done decorative as well as ordinary masonry and paint restoration on historic homes in Chicago and Oak Park. She holds a B.S. in Road and Building Construction (Industrial Technology) with a minor in Fine Art and an M.F.A. in Scenic Design. She has recently been invited to join The National Association of Women in Construction (local chapter in Indiana) and is looking forward to being involved in Habitat for Humanity. Thanks to David, my family, and to Theatre at the Center for being such a special place to work.

**Dennis C. Dent, Jr.** (Walter Lee Younger) is overjoyed to be making his debut with GSU's Theatre and Performance Studies program. Dennis works in Student Affairs at GSU, where he is the Coordinator of Campus Programs and Community Service. Dennis holds a B.A. in Interpersonal and Organizational Communication from The University of Louisiana and a M.A. in Public Administration from Eastern Washington University. He is also the Worship through Arts Director for St. Luke Church of Chicago.

**Cheryl Frazier** (Lena "Mama" Younger) is delighted to be performing on stage again in her first production in 14 years, after spending many years teaching, coaching, and directing students to many championships in high school speech and theatre. This year, Frazier was recognized by the National Federation of High School Associations as a 2013-14 Outstanding Speech, Debate, and Theatre Educator. Currently, Cheryl is the Academic Adviser and Director of Forensics and Theatre at Southland College Prep Charter High School.

**April Starr Grammer** (Run Crew) is thrilled to make her GSU debut with *A Raisin in the Sun*. April is a visual artist and fine arts major at GSU. She attended Loyola University and earned an A.F.A. at Prairie State College. Currently enrolled in GSU TAPS classes, she embraces the adventure of artistic expression in visual art and dynamic theatrical performance. April is honored to work with Dr. Santoro and the cast.

**Cordaro Johnson** (Joseph Asagai) is no stranger to the stage, as this is his sixth show this year. Cordaro just graduated with two bachelor degrees in Health Administration from University of Phoenix. Some of Cordaro's most memorable



performances are *The Ghost of Christmas Present* in *Scrooge the Musical* and *Ragtime*. Cordaro would like to thank his Family Christian Center friends and family for their support, as well as his extended family for always believing in him.

**Yehoshua “Yoshi” McClerklin** (Travis Younger) Born with a twinkle in his eye, a joyous soul, and pep in his step, Yoshi is a 4<sup>th</sup> grade student in the Sauk Elementary School Gifted Program where he is a member of the award-winning Show Choir. He loves nature, Goku, and graphic novels. Yoshi is a member of the 4-H “Green Team” Club, and is a Junior Ecologist at the Thorn Creek Nature Center. Yoshi loves spending time with his family.

**Lois Nemeth** (Run Crew) is a GSU student with a double major in Communication and Theatre and Performance Studies. She graduated with her A.A. from Prairie State Community College where she was Student Government President from 1999-2000. She also held position as chair of the Illinois Community College Student Advisory Committee from 1999-2001. Lois is a public speaker, writer, vocalist, and musician. Recent works include the GSU TAPS production of *A... My Name is Alice*, a panelist-performer at the 2014 Illinois Communication and Theatre Association conference, and a storyteller at the 2014 GSU Haunted Hayride.

**Sherry Nolan** (Stage Management) has been involved with theatre for 25 years. She has gained backstage experience from places such as Moraine Valley Community College, The Candlelight Dinner Playhouse, Loyola University, Springfield Theatre Center, BTG, and The Drama Group, doing shows such as *Little Women*, *5 Guys Named Mo*, and *Singin’ in the Rain*. Sherry is a Pre-Clinical Psychology student at GSU, and is excited to be involved in such an important production. She thanks her partner in mischief, Kelly, for unconditional support and humor.

**Triston Dior Price** (Travis Younger Understudy) was born in Melrose Park, IL. Triston now lives in Plainfield, IL where he attends Troy (WBO) School. Triston has sung in the choir, played soccer, T-ball, and plans to try out for basketball in the fall. During his spare time he likes to play video games, write songs, and talk on the phone. Triston dreams of being married and becoming a great father when he grows up, and although his dream is years away both of his parents encourage him to do his best in whatever he does.

**Michael DePriest Reed** (Bobo) spent nearly 30 years in theater. Included in his works are directing and acting. Michael directed *The Water Engine* and *The Good Doctor*, and has acted in *Twelfth Night*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Bald Soprano*, and *Celebration* at Moraine Valley Community College, *Lil Abner* at Beverly Theatre Guild, and *Ragtime* at The Drama Group. Michael was also Assistant Coach with Moraine Valley Men’s Basketball (2013 National Runner-up). This is his first production at GSU.

**Janiece K. Russell** (Ruth) is thrilled to be a part of this production and is honored to share the stage with her fellow thespians. She has taken various writing, voice, and acting classes at Victory Gardens, AMTC, Second City, Muzic Net, and The Illinois Theater Center. Janiece thanks EVERYONE involved in this production for their dedication and hard work. Another HUGE thanks goes to her family and friends for their continuous support! Enjoy the show!

**Marshelle Renee Sanders** (Assistant Stage Management) was born and raised on the South Side of Chicago. She is a junior at GSU majoring in Communication (Journalism) with a minor in Theatre and Performance Studies. She has always been involved in the performing arts. Marshelle loves performing, filming, and wants to inspire, just as well as she has been inspired to put God first, pray, and never give up on your dreams!

**Patrick Santoro** (Direction) is Assistant Professor of Theatre and Performance Studies at GSU, where he teaches courses in TAPS, Communication Studies, and Gender and Sexuality Studies. He received his doctorate in Performance Studies from Southern Illinois University Carbondale and his M.A. in Communication Studies and B.A. in Humanities from the University of South Florida. Dr. Santoro has worked as an actor,

director, and stage manager in professional and educational theatre for the last 20 years. Representative directing credits include *Baggage* (winner of Source Theatre’s 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Washington Theatre Festival 10-Minute Play Competition), *The Laramie Project*, a contemporary retelling of the Greek myth *Icarus*, and Anne Sexton’s *Transformations*, *A... My Name is Alice*, and *Still Life* at GSU. In addition to working on more traditional works of theatre, he participates in the creation of performance art, installation art, and video projects.

**Markas Sergalis** (Karl Lindner) is happy to be working with such a fabulous bunch for this production. Markas was introduced to acting at Riverfront Playhouse, where he did 3 plays, most recently *The Mousetrap*. Special thanks go to director of the play, Dr. Patrick Santoro, for his dedication to theater arts and for a trust in the abilities of the cast to bring this play to life.

**Shelley Strasser Holland** (Scenic and Lighting Design) is pleased to return to GSU after designing Anne Sexton’s *Transformations*, *A... My Name is Alice*, and *Still Life*. Shelley’s most recent lighting design credits include *The Whaleship Essex* for The Shattered Globe Theatre in Chicago and *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* at Theatre at the Center in Munster, IN. Ms. Strasser Holland is the Resident Lighting Designer for TATC, and a few of her favorite TATC credits include *Cash: Ring of Fire*, *Christmas Carol: The Musical*, *Godspell*, *Wonderful Life*, *Petrified Forest*, and *Scrooge*. Since 1992 Shelley has been an ensemble member and the resident lighting designer for The Shattered Globe Theatre. Some of her favorite SGT productions include: *Glass Menagerie* (Jeff Nomination), *All My Sons*, and *Judgment at Nuremberg*. Ms. Strasser Holland is an adjunct professor in Theatre and Performance Studies at GSU. Shelley received her M.F.A. in Theatre Design (Lighting) from Northwestern University and B.S. in Mathematics/Theatre from Eureka College.

**Brenda Winstead** (Costume Design) Chicago area design credits include over 30 shows at Theatre at the Center and designs for several other companies including Drury Lane Oak Brook, Fox Valley Repertory, Stage Left, Theatre Seven, Shattered Globe, and Pavement Group. Regionally, her designs have been seen at Peninsula Players, Forestburgh Playhouse, Connecticut Repertory Theatre, Sierra Repertory Theatre, and Black Hills Playhouse. Brenda has an M.F.A. from the University of Connecticut and is an ensemble member of Stage Left Theatre.

### Acknowledgments

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Faculty across campus encouraging students to attend the production  
And to all those who have for some reason gone unnamed here... thank you!